UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1991/34/Add.1
1 November 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Second regular session of 1991

Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme

Report on the resumed thirty-eighth session*

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its resumed thirty-eighth session. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 13A (E/1991/34/Add.1).

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Part four

RESUMED THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Held at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 20 September 1991

Chapter I

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

Meetings

1. In accordance with its decision 91/52 of 25 June 1991, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme held its resumed thirty-eighth session at United Nations Headquarters from 16 to 20 September 1991 to consider pending issues, including those allocated to the Standing Committee for Programme Matters. The provisional agenda and organization of work are contained in document DP/1991/L.15. An account of the discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (DP/1991/SR.40 and 41).

2. The Standing Committee for Programme Matters held four meetings between 16 and 19 September to consider (a) preparations for the fifth programming cycle: Special Programme Resources and (b) the future programme of work, including field visits. Robert Kamau Gathungu (Kenya), Vice-President of the Governing Council, served as Chairman; Mr. Ivo Sieber (Switzerland) served as Rapporteur. The final report of the Standing Committee is contained in document DP/1991/73.

Attendance

3. The members of the Governing Council represented at the resumed thirty-eighth session, States represented by observers, United Nations Secretariat units, United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other organizations represented at the session are listed in document DP/1991/INF/5.

Chapter II

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIFTH PROGRAMMING CYCLE: SPECIAL PROGRAMME RESOURCES

4. For its consideration of this item, the Governing Council had before it the report of the Administrator entitled "Special Programme Resources: overview and programming documents" (DP/1991/64 and Add.1 and 2). At its 41st meeting, the Governing Council, after considering the recommendations of the Standing Committee for Programme Matters (DP/1991/SCPM/L.8), adopted decision 91/54 (see the annex below).

Annex

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS RESUMED THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

91/54. Special Programme Resources: general guidelines and approval procedures

The Governing Council

1. Recalls its decisions 89/20 of 30 June 1989 on the role of the United Nations Development Programme in the 1990s and 91/3 of 22 February 1991 on Special Programme Resources;

2. Also recalls General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989 on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

3. Notes that in accordance with decision 91/3 a programming document has been submitted to the Governing Council by the Administrator for twenty-three out of the total of twenty-six subcategories of Special Programme Resources allocations;

4. Stresses the importance of the intended role of Special Programme Resources as a catalyst in assuring that the other resources of the United Nations Development Programme achieve the objective of building the national capacity of recipient countries, especially in the areas listed in paragraph 7 of decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990 and in decision 91/3;

5. Stresses the role of Special Programme Resources in helping to improve the quality and effectiveness of technical cooperation funded by the United Nations Development Programme;

6. Decides to consider for approval in February 1992 programming documents for technical cooperation among developing countries (subcategory B.4), the transfer and adaptation of technology for development (subcategory B.5) and the social dimensions of adjustment (subcategory C.6), which will be submitted to the Governing Council at its special session in February 1992;

7. Authorizes the Administrator to release up to 15 per cent of the fifth programming cycle allocation for each subcategory of Special Programme Resources for which documentation was received by the Governing Council at its resumed thirty-eighth session;

8. Requests the Administrator to submit to the Governing Council at its special session in February 1992 revised programming documents for the subcategories contained in document DP/1991/64/Add.2, drawing on decision 91/3 and on the views expressed by delegations at the meeting of the Standing Committee for Programme Matters during the resumed thirty-eighth session;

9. Decides that, as an exceptional procedure, unless objections are raised by delegations at the special session of the Governing Council in February 1992, all revised documents will be considered approved by the Council;

10. Authorizes the Administrator to release the remainder of the fifth programming cycle Special Programme Resources allocation once the relevant documents have been approved as outlined above;

11. Also requests the Administrator to avoid using Special Programme Resources for the provision of goods, such as medical supplies and foodstuffs, which falls within the relief mandate of other United Nations organizations until authorized by the Governing Council in accordance with the procedure outlined above;

12. Requests the Administrator to take into account in the fifth programming cycle, as appropriate, the experience gained from activities funded by Special Programme Resources in the fourth programming cycle;

13. Requests the Administrator to ensure that activities are funded from Special Programme Resources in response to requests received in particular from recipient countries and that maximum use is made of national resources and capacities. To ensure greatest impact, such resources should be utilized, to the extent possible, in accordance with the principle of national execution. Special Programme Resources should assist in the development of strategies at the national level as well as other such catalytic activities;

14. Requests the Administrator:

(a) To establish clear accountability within the United Nations Development Programme for each subcategory of Special Programme Resources;

(b) To ensure that Special Programme Resources subcategories remain focused;

(c) To streamline Special Programme Resources approval procedures;

(d) To develop appropriate performance indicators for each subcategory in order to ensure effective monitoring and impact evaluation;

(e) To ensure the systematic utilization of evaluation results in the future programming of activities;

15. Requests the Administrator to ensure optimal complementary use of Special Programme Resources in relation to activities funded by country, regional, interregional and global indicative planning figures in financial, programmatic and operational terms, taking into consideration the catalytic role of the Special Programme Resources;

16. Requests the Administrator, in close cooperation with the other organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to promote inter-agency collaboration as appropriate in the implementation of activities funded from Special Programme Resources and to avoid overlap with the mandates of other United Nations organizations, so that maximum benefit is derived from the comparative advantage of each organization of the United Nations system;

17. Further requests the Administrator to submit to the Governing Council reviews of the subcategories within the first three years of the fifth programming cycle, on the basis of which the Council may reallocate funds among categories and subcategories for the remainder of the cycle.

41st meeting
20 September 1991